For the Birds

Appomattox County couple have unusual lifestyle

By FRANCES ABBITT

Al and Carol Bippus of Cedar Knolls here in Appomattox have a lifestyle that might be described as "for the birds," and they like it that way.

Every morning, weekends included, they get up at 6 a.m. or earlier. There are cages to be cleaned, papers to be changed, fresh food to put out and a million other things that have to be done daily and it's all for the birds.

Walk into the dining area of the Bippus home and you'll see them ... 13 birds, Cockatiels and Love Birds. They are beautiful and they are noisy, especially if a stranger enters their familiar territory. All the cages with the exception of one are placed in front of a picture window.

Natives of Pennsylvania, Al and Carol moved to Appomattox in 1979; they had made the move to Lynchburg a bit earlier when he began work with the Armstrong plant here.

"When we were rearing our family of six children, we had only parakeets," commented Carol. "We bought our first love bird in Lynchburg in 1980."

About the hardest part of raising birds is getting away; bird-sitters are hard to find. Al and Carol don't leave home for any long period of time.

"Birds are like dogs, they seem to know who likes them and who doesn't," commented Al. "Birds are smart and can easily be trained. I don't think the average person realizes just how intelligent birds really are," he added.

"The birds are allowed to get out of their cages at regular intervals. They have been trained as to where they may sit and they seem to know where they may not perch. Although they fly through the fhouse at will, they will return to specific areas to perch and when they need to relieve themselves," Al said.

A perch, running the length of the window where the cages are located, has paper on the floor underneath and the birds have been trained to go to this area when they feel the need to relieve themselves. A wide formica board rests across the top of the refrigerator in the kitchen area of the room. The birds know they may perch in this area. Paper covering on the board is changed daily.

"An accident occasionally happens, but it's an exception rather than the rule with the birds," commented Al.

A fly swatter directed at the birds but not ever actually touching them keeps them out of forbidden areas of the home. They seem to catch on very quickly as to the meaning of the hand holding a poised fly swatter.

"We never use our hands in disciplining the birds. Our hand is their friend. We pet them with our hands, let them perch on our hands and often feed them with our hands, so consequently we never use our hands in correcting them," Carol said.

"The birds have a lot of personality," said Al. "They know their names and respond when called by name."

There are no late sleepers when there are birds in the house. Even though the cages are covered at night, the love birds will start chirping as early as 5 a.m. and even before.

The birds sleep with their heads tucked under a wing and chirp while sleeping.

The Bippus birds are well-fed; they have a choice of approximately 30 different kinds of seeds. All varities are not necessarily put out at the same time; the birds do however, get popcorn daily as a treat.

"The average person with a bird will have, maybe, three or four kinds of seeds, but we like to spoil our birds a bit," commented Al.

Cockatiels need salt in their diet, idiozed salt, especially when nesting. The birds also eat fesh vegetables, corn, peas, beans, cabbage, and broccoli. They like raw apples too. Each cage has cuttle bones and mineral blocks. The Bippuses buy food in large quantities from a wholesale supplier.

Love birds are busy creatures and excellent escape artists.

"Our love birds can open ordinary cages," said Al with a laugh. "So, we began using safety pins and now they are beginning to open them. They open key chains with ease."

When it is time for nesting, the love birds look everywhere for material. They will chew up any available paper, cut it in strips and try to weave it between the wires of the cage thus providing privacy for nesting.

"The love birds lay eggs at will," said Al. "They will lay as many eggs as they have food supply."

"Three times a year is the most one would want to mate the love birds," commented Al. "If they don't have a place to make a nest they won't lay eggs."

Humidity is very important in nesting. If the eggs get too dry they won't hatch. "We keep water in the cages, of course, and often when nesting, the birds will walk through the water, get their belly wet and go back and sit on the egg," Carol said

"Birds will not relieve themselves when on the nest but will wait until they get to a designated place," Al said.

Birds often pick and preen the feathers of the mate; if there is no mate, they will allow a human to scratch their heads.

"One of the cockatiels gets in the shower with me," Al said. "Sometimes he comes out looking like a drowned rat and at other times he just sits in the corner of the shower."

Cockatiels give off a white powder-like dust daily; the average cockatiel has approximately 3,000 feathers.

"All baby birds have one egg tooth," said Al. "This is used during the hatching process. Once they're out, (hatched) the tooth falls out," said Al.

The Bippuses lifestyle? Strictly for the birds, all 13 of them.

THE LOVE BIRD, beautiful, intelligent, easily trained, makes an interesting and unusual pet.

Chorale and choir plan concert

The Appomattox County High School Chorale and Concert Choir will present the Annual Spring Concert Monday evening, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

The first portion of the concert will be a review of the choir's activities and musical performances during the past year. Slides of the recent chorale tour to New York and Boston will be presented along with the musical selections.

While in New York City the Chorale was privilaged to attend a performance of the hit Broadway musical "Cats". The concluding portion of Mondays program will feature many of the songs from this captivating musical. Doug Pedigo of Vinton, Va. will accompany the choir on synthesizer and Patricia Chandler of Appomattox will assist at the piano.

Monday evening's concert will be the final performance of the ACHS choirs under the direction of Steven Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence. is leaving Appomattox to resume graduate studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, next fall.

The concert will be presented at no charge to the public and the chorus students cordially invite the community to attend.

RECENTLY STATE POLICEMAN Paul Kvasnicka visited every classroom at the Appomattox Primary School to explain the procedure of fingerprinting. The students were told their fingerprints are unique, they never change. Since no two fingerprints are alike, this is an excellent way for Mom and Dad to know their child. Trooper Kvasnicka, the Sheriff's Department and the Junior Woman's Club sponsored this activity. In conclusion, Trooper Kvasnicka said, "My job is to help you stay safe.

Students to perform

Students from the class of Virginia Carnefix will perform piano programzs for the American College of Student Musicians, a part of the National Guild of Piano Teachers, of which their teacher is a certified member.

This event will take place at Hampden-Sydney College on Thursday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Those students performing are Lisa Williamson, Terri Hamlett, Jennifer Foltz, Shavonne Carr, Mary Beth Drinkard, David Fedison, and Susan Carnefix.

These young pianists will strive for national honors as they play from memory a 10-piece program of piano literature covering all periods of music history, all major and minor scales, and sight read for a certified ajudicator assigned to this audition area.

Jordan Church news

A church business meeting will be held at Jordan Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

The Jordan Senior Choir will practice Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

The fourth Sunday will be Rallly Day. Morning worship will begin at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Elliott in charge. The Rev. Henry Pryor and Scott Zion will be in charge of the afternoon service.

The first Sunday in June the Young Adult Choir will be celebrating their anniversary. The Heavenly Messengers of Lynchburg will be their special guest. Plan now to attend this program wihich begins at 3 p.m.

Promise Land news

Much of the strife in life arises because we are so busy collecting material possessions that we have no time for God.

We extend an invitation to all to worship with us on Sunday at Promise Land Baptist Church. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and worship service follows at 11 a.m.

Our special prayers go out to Margaret Forrest and Monroe Kelso.

Let us remember the sick and shut-in with our prayers and our deeds.

Mt. Pleasant news

By ODELL CHAMBERS

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly - James 4:3.

The Rev. Napier delivered a wonderful message Sunday. The Young Adults furnished music.

The Ladies Aid Club celebrated their 38th anniversary last Sunday. Sister Mary E. Hawkes and her gospel choir were our guests. We enjoyed the fellowship.

The Rev. James Whithman and members of Zion Progress Church of Detroit, Mich. will be our guests for Family Day. Dinner will be served at Church Saturday. An all-day service will be held Sunday.

The Rev. Napier and the Senior Choir were guests at Mt. Obed last Friday night in their Spring Revival.

Let's pray for the sick and shut -in.

Mitchells get degrees

Richard L. Mitchell, also the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar V. Mitchell of Appomattox, received a B.S. degree in radio and television management at Liberty Baptist College.

David R. Mitchell, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar V. Mitchell recently received a B.S. degree in elementary education from Carson Newman College.

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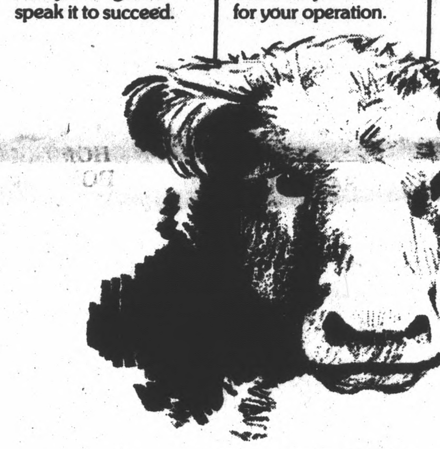

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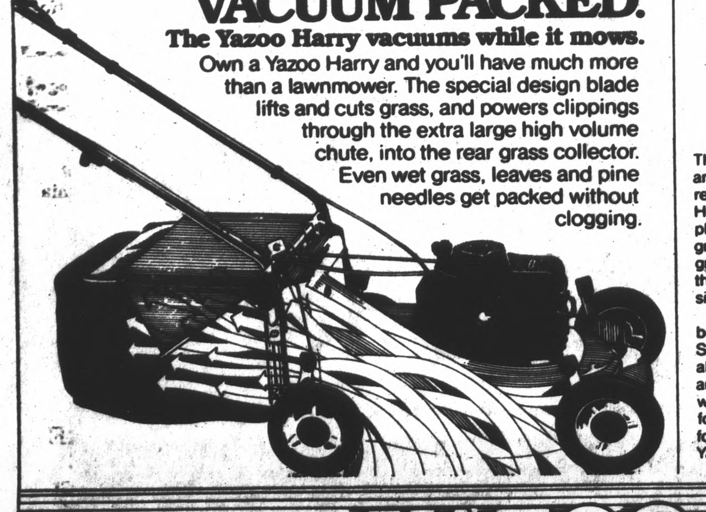

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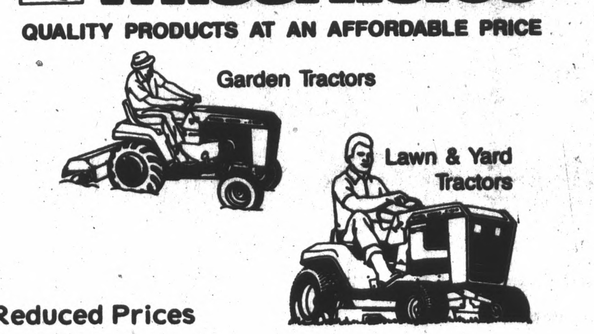

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46. Landscape Contractors
47. Lawn Mowers
48. Livestock
49. Lost & Found
50. Memoriams
51. Miscellaneous
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53. Motorcycles
54. Musical Instruments
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75. Stocks & Bonds
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79. Yard Sale
80. Notices

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14/5-23-2tc

17. Card of Thanks

To the many wonderful and dear friends and relatives who gave of their time for visits, flowers, cards, prayers, food and fruit while I was in the hospital and since my return home. Also to Liberty Chapel, Red Oak and Jordon Baptist churches, Trinity, Mt. Comfort United Methodist Churches. I want to thank those who in so many ways helped my wife in deeds and kindness. Also for Rev. Camden, Rev. J.N. Williams and my pastor Rev. David Beale for visits and prayers. All good deeds and prayers will never be forgotten.
God Bless you all
Robert A. Lacado
17/5-23 1tp

19. Clothing

SLACKS & JEAN SALE SAVE 20% to 50% THE CLOTHESLINE Triangle Plaza Appomattox, Va.
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26. Excavation

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39. Help Wanted

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39/5-16 2tc

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39/5-23 1tc

39. Help Wanted

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39/5-23 1tc

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43/5-23 1tc

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48/5-23 1tc

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50. Memoriams

In loving memory of our mother and grandmother, Lillian D. Martin, who passed away one year ago, May 25, 1983.

Somewhere beyond the sunset
Away from the world of strife,
Our loved one is sweetly resting,
In the land that knows no night.
The garden gate stood open.
He saw you needed rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
For he always takes the best.

Sadly missed,
Children and Grandchildren
50/5-23 1tc

In memory of Sgt. Curtis Whitted who passed away 14 years ago in Vietnam.

We cannot bring the old days back,
When we were all together,
But secret tears and loving thoughts.
Will keep us close forever.

Sadly missed by Wife, mother, and sons
50/5-23 1tc

51. Miscellaneous

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52/5-23-1tc

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52/10-12 EOW

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54/5-16 3tp

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56/5-16 2tc

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63. Real Estate

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73. Services

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